



HERITAGE MATTERS

NEWS OF THE NATION'S DIVERSE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Hovenweep National Monument and Hopi Foundation Archeological Documentation and Preservation Workshop

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Publications

Eric J. Brunnemann
Southeast Utah Group, National Park Service

Beginning October 15, 2001 and continuing to November 9, 2001, Vanishing Treasures archeologists, masonry specialists, photographers, computer specialists, and the entire Hovenweep National Monument staff, participated in a workshop with Hopi masonry specialists from Greasewood, Coyote, and Reed Clans, under the guidance of Hopi Reed Clan Mother Eilene Randolph from Bacavi. This workshop marked the beginning of a mutual assistance program with the Hopi Foundation, Hopi Nation, and National Park Service. Three weeks of the workshop were devoted to documentation

and preservation. The fourth week was dedicated to meeting with Hopi tribal elders to review the program and tour the sites that were documented and stabilized.

The four-week long program of on-site documentation, stabilization, and consultation is the result of two parallel rehabilitation programs: the NPS Vanishing Treasures Initiative, and the Hopi Foundation Clan House Restoration Program. In early 2000, the parks and monuments of the Southeast Utah Group,

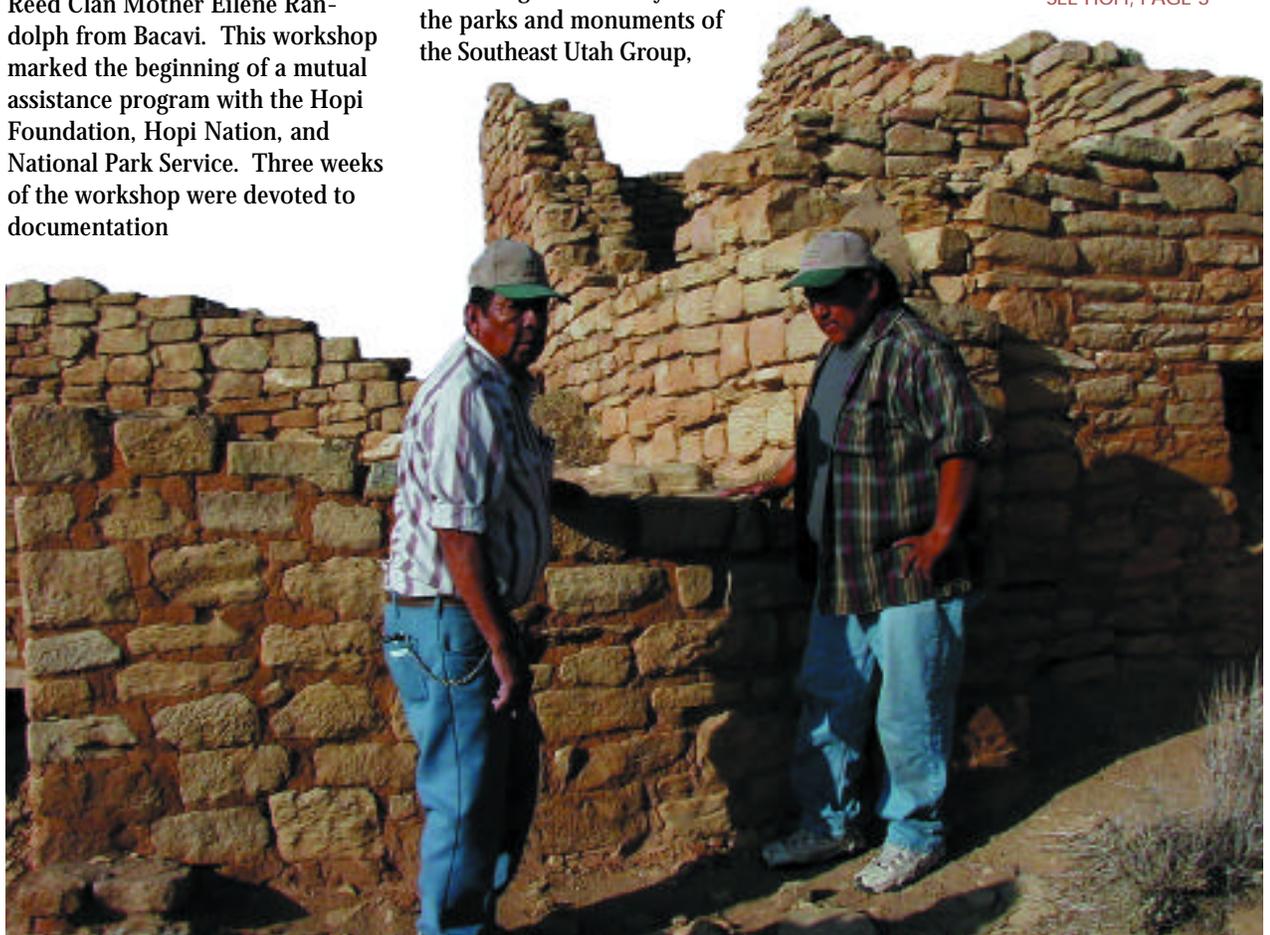
which includes Hovenweep National Monument, entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the Hopi Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

The Vanishing Treasures Initiative, "a grass-roots program designed to address both the devastating destruction of...irreplaceable historic and prehistoric structures as well as the impending loss of preservation expertise," was

estab- [SEE HOPI, PAGE 3](#)



Find out more about this logo on page 5, the National Underground Network to Freedom article.



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The structures at the Hovenweep National Monument will benefit from the traditional knowledge systems shared with park preservationists during the four-week Documentation and Preservation workshop. Dalton Taylor (left) with NPS Vanishing Treasures Conservator Lloyd Masayumptewa (right) confer on the Cajon Unit, Hovenweep Historical Monument. Photo courtesy of Eric J. Brunnemann.

NPS ACTIVITIES

Understanding and Preserving the Heritage of Cambodian Americans

Audrey Ambrosino
Lowell National Historical Park

Erin Sheehan
Lowell National Historical Park

Over the past year, staff members of Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Massachusetts, have been involved in an intensive program aimed at making new and deeper connections with members of Lowell's Cambodian community. In June 2001, a delegation from Lowell visited Cambodia. The group included civic, educational, business, and community leaders, including Lowell NHP Superintendent Patrick C. McCrary. The trip represented an effort by Lowell leaders to better understand the complex culture, history, and heritage of nearly one-third of Lowell's citizens—first and second generation Khmer-Americans.

Prior to their arrival in United States, most Cambodian immigrants were subject to the barbarous rule of the Khmer Rouge and its leader Pol Pot.

Since the June 2001 trip, numerous meetings have taken place to plan educational and cultural exchange programs, economic development initiatives, and a possible museum or center detailing immigration based on human rights issues. According to Superintendent McCrary, such a center would be a place for Lowell's numerous ethnic groups and immigrant communities to share their history and

culture, as well as promote tolerance and understanding among people.

This past February, Lowell NHP sponsored a public forum to discuss the trip and the many resulting initiatives. Park, city, and state officials as well as educators, media, community activists and interested citizens filled the auditorium of the Park's visitor center to learn more about the trip and to discuss plans for the future. Superintendent Patrick McCrary and Lowell City Councilor Rithy Uong moderated the event. Uong, who immigrated 20 years ago, is the first Cambodian to hold public office in the United States.

All speakers touched on the importance of tolerance, cultural understanding, patience, pride, and sensitivity in the city of Lowell. They praised the park for its interest, level of involvement and commitment, and pledged their support for future collaborative ventures. Currently, the park offers space to the nationally recognized Angkor Dance Troupe, supports community events like the Southeast Asian Water Festival and the Lowell Folk Festival, and is currently hosting an exhibit documenting Southeast Asian Dance Traditions.

In April of 2002, Superintendent McCrary was presented with a Community Appreciation Award from the Cambodian American League of Lowell.

For more information, contact Audrey Ambrosino at audrey_ambrosino@nps.gov.



Young members of the Angkor Dance Troupe perform at the Lowell Folk Festival in July of 2001. Photo courtesy of Kevin Harkins.

HOPI, FROM PAGE 1

lished in 1993. It is comprised of over 40 NPS units in the Southwest. The initiative has three primary purposes:

- 1) funding emergency stabilization projects to record and repair structures in immediate danger of destruction,
- 2) replacement of an aging workforce of stone masons and master carpenters whose architectural skills will be lost if not passed to a new generation of craft persons, and
- 3) moving the initiative from an emergency response to the loss of historic fabric, to a proactive preservation program.

The Hopi Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots Native American organization. The Foundation's mission is to foster self-reliance and a sense of pride, recognize ability, pass on learning, and give back to the community. Through various programs, the Foundation seeks to preserve and rehabilitate historical Hopi architecture. It also acknowledges that the traditional skills employed in architectural preservation are gradually being lost. This gradual loss of traditional building skills suggest that traditional activities, integral with such structures, might not be passing from generation to generation.

In the first week, Hopi participants toured regional archeological sites, and received information about the techniques, methods, and recording skills used by NPS archeologists to document architectural sites prior to preservation or treatment. Week two was devoted to data collection in the field. The third week was hands-on masonry stabilization.

In the final week, Hopi clan leaders, representatives from the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, and the Executive Director of the

Hopi Foundation joined the Hopi masonry specialists at Hovenweep. National Park Service and Hopi members reviewed the program and then conducted site visits. Tribal elders visited springs and petroglyph sites throughout the monument and discussed clan affiliations and Hopi cultural prehistory.

Based on this workshop, tribal representatives from both the Hopi Foundation and the Hopi Cultural Preservation expressed their desire to see the program expand beyond Hovenweep National Monument and asked NPS to consider expanding the initiative to other ancestral Puebloan parks and monuments in the Southwest. There are plans underway for a 2002 program and suggestions of a formal visit to Hopi itself by NPS archeologists. Both agencies are considering reciprocal job opportunities in preservation as a venue for preserving ancestral Puebloan culture. As both NPS and Hopi become more acquainted with each other, it is anticipated that our mutual interests will continue to build strong relationships.

For more information about the Hopi Foundation, contact Barbara Poley at 928/734-2380, or visit their website, <http://www.hopifoundation.org/>. For more information about the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, contact Leigh J. Kuwanwisiwma at 928/734-3000, or visit the website, <http://www.nau.edu/~hcopo-pl/>. For more information about the Southeast Utah, contact Eric Brunnemann at 435/719-2134, email: eric_brunneman@nps.gov. Visit the Vanishing Treasures Initiative webpage at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/vt/vt.htm>.

Biscayne National Park and the Stories that Lie Beneath

Alan Spears
National Parks Conservation Association

When Biscayne National Monument was expanded to 181,500 acres and designated a national park in 1980, the objective was to "protect a rare combination of terrestrial and undersea life... and to provide an outstanding spot for recreation and relaxation." To this day, Biscayne remains a vast harbor of clear blue waters, multi-textured coral, and a dazzlingly colorful array of fish. But as the majority of the park (96%) is underwater, so too is a large part of the story of Biscayne hidden from plain sight. Omitted, lost, or forgotten amidst the tributes naturalists, historians, and interpreters, have paid to the beauty of the reefs and keys, are the people of Biscayne, many of African descent, who populated the region and formed a rudimentary, hardscrabble existence for themselves.

To be a person of color in the United States is, often, to have a different sense of geography. Tangible things such as waterfalls and interstates are known entities, but sometimes less significant than the knowledge of safe harbors and places one "ought not go." Our national parklands too, are a part of this alternative landscape. Determining how some people of color have historically used and viewed these places can tell us volumes about our collective history as Americans—where we have been, where we are, and, perhaps, where we are going.

The story of Biscayne's early residents begins with the European arrival in the Americas, the displacement of indigenous peoples, and the enslavement and transport of Africans to the Western

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Hemisphere. Between 1565 and 1763, Florida was one province in Spain's vast "new world" empire. Although free Africans, such as the explorer Juan Garrido, accompanied early Spanish Conquistadors, the hard work of establishing a colony out of the swamps and woodlands of Florida called for the importation of large numbers of enslaved Africans. Contrary to popular belief, most of the Africans, brought directly from Africa, and later Cuba and other Spanish holding in the Caribbean, to Florida, were skilled laborers and artisans, as adept at shipbuilding as they were at constructing fortifications or growing crops.

Some of the first Africans to inhabit the keys were those who had survived the wreck of slave ships passing through the area. Men and women escaping from slavery on the mainland also made their way to the keys. Some settled in the area while others used the keys as a staging point on their way to non-slave holding islands such

Andros in the Bahamas or Haiti.

Some of those settlers' stories were "lost," but others like Black Caesar and Parson Jones and his family illustrate how some sought to take advantage of their new home. Black Caesar, so the legend describes, is as an African leader who, after being tricked into the hold of a slave ship and transported to the Caribbean, made good his escape and became a pirate. Caesar Creek, located just to the southeast of the present day Adams Key Information Center, is thought to have been the location of Black Caesar's headquarters. The Jones family lived on Elliott Key where they grew limes and pineapples. Jones and his family spent several years hacking out a channel in the coral reefs around Elliot Key in order to create a way of transporting their produce to markets on the mainland. The cut, although no longer used, remains visible to the careful eye to this day. The last descendant of the family, Lancelot Jones, remained on Elliott Key until

Hurricane Andrew forced his evacuation and eventually destroyed his home.

The legend of Black Caesar and the limited historical record on Parson Jones hint at the wealth of information that potentially waits to be uncovered about Biscayne's "other history." Long regarded as a nature lover's paradise and a prime vacation/recreation destination, Biscayne had a very different appeal to the Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, and African Americans who made the Keys their home.

Historian George Santayana once wrote "all history is written wrong... and is therefore in need of rewriting." Uncovering these stories is a way to make Biscayne National Park (and by extension, the entire park system) more relevant to people of color.

For more information about Biscayne National Park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/bisc/resource/cultural>. Alan Spears can be reached at aspears@npca.org.

Adams Key is presumed to be the base of operation for the pirate Black Caesar, who conducted raids in and around the keys. Photo courtesy of Alan Spears.



School Desegregation Study Leads to Formal Recognition and Lesson Plan

John H. Sprinkle, Jr.
National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service

In 1998, as part of the legislation establishing the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Congress directed the Department of the Interior to prepare a National Historic Landmark theme study on racial desegregation. Prepared by the National Historic Landmarks Survey, the theme study provides a context for identifying and evaluating historic places that help us understand the school desegregation story. Published in 2000, the theme study is available on the world wide web at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nhl/school.htm. (See *Heritage Matters*, February 2000, for a related story on the desegregation study by Turkiya Lowe, a NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program intern.)

One of the little-known stories is found in New Kent County, Virginia and the pioneering efforts of its African-American citizens to realize the promise of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decisions. The 1968 *Green v. New Kent County* decision defined the standards by which the Court judged whether a violation of the U.S. Constitution had been remedied in school desegregation cases.

After *Green*, a decade of massive resistance to school desegregation in the South from 1955-1964, was replaced by an era of massive integration from 1968-1973, as the Court placed an affirmative duty on school boards to integrate schools. The *Green* decision is considered the most significant public school case decided by the Supreme Court since the *Brown* cases. The New

Kent and George W. Watkins schools illustrate the typical characteristics of a southern rural school system that achieved token desegregation following *Brown* and stand as a symbol to the modern Civil Rights Movement of 1954-1970 to expand the rights of black citizens in the United States.

Having identified the significance of the *Green* case, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the New Kent County Board of Education, nominated the New Kent and Watkins Schools as National Historic Landmarks. On August 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Interior designated them together as National Historic Landmarks. A copy of this nomination is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/designations/08-07-01/>.

National Park Service involvement in the recognition of these schools did not stop with preparing a nomination. Teaming with the New Kent County Board of Education and the Department of History at the College of William and Mary, the National Park Service successfully applied for a 2001 African American heritage mini grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy. The purpose of the grant was to increase the level of public recognition for the *Green* case within Virginia and across the nation by preparing a *Teaching with Historic Places* (TwHP) lesson plan. Administered by the National Register of Historic Places, *Teaching with Historic Places* collects and distributes lesson plans for secondary school teachers and other educators. The lesson plan is currently in preparation for publishing on the Teaching with Historic Places web site, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/>.

For more information, contact John Sprinkle at 202/343-8166, email: john_sprinkle@nps.gov.

Network to Freedom Program Adds 39 New Listings

Diane Miller
NPS UGRR Network to Freedom Program
National Park Service

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program preserves and commemorates the history of the Underground Railroad, a significant heritage related to resistance to enslavement and flight to freedom in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Recently the National Park Service announced that the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Network to Freedom) has accepted 39 listings from the latest round of applications. There are 29 sites, eight programs, and two facilities. This increases the number of listings to 54, with 39 sites, 18 programs, and seven facilities.

Listing in the Network to Freedom provides national recognition to well-documented historic sites, programs, and facilities. Network to Freedom listings will be featured on the Program's web site (www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr). Sites, programs, and facilities that have been accepted in the Network will have the privilege to use and display the Network to Freedom logo. This validation of their Underground Railroad associations can be an important tool for site preservation and procurement of funding, whether through Network to Freedom grants or other sources.

As the Network to Freedom expands, information from the publicly accessible nominations will be available to assist researchers with gaining a new appreciation of the complexity of this rich tapestry illustrating the quest for freedom. For example, in the Midwest, there is a cultural landscape, the Mary Meachum

Crossing Site, Missouri, where a group of enslaved Africans seeking their freedom crossed the Mississippi River, just north of St. Louis. On the Illinois side, the party was met by a group of police and slave owners resulting in the death of one organizer, the arrest of the conductor Mary Meachum, and the sale of another escaping woman in the party. Further up the Mississippi River, north of Alton, Illinois, was an area known as Rocky Fork, now known as Camp Warren Levis. Here lies one of the first "Free" state stops for freedom seekers leaving Missouri. With many descendants in the area today, the community lasted long after 1865, holding on to oral traditions associated with the Underground Railroad.

The Network to Freedom acknowledges National Historic Landmarks (NHL), National Register sites, sites in national park units, and historical sites such as those not previously nationally recognized. The Gerrit Smith Estate in Peterboro, New York, a new NHL, was home to abolitionist Gerrit Smith and a major resting place for refugees from slavery. Fort Donelson National Battlefield, in Dover, Tennessee, is associated with the Underground Railroad, because it was a site used by slaves escaping during the Civil War and was a recruiting center for the

The Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo will be affixed to materials and publications distributed by sites and organizations listed as UGRR Network to Freedom members. Design courtesy of Shelley Harper.

U.S. Colored Troops. A former railroad station in Baltimore, Maryland, President Street Station, listed in the National Register, shows the role of railroads as an escape route for such freedom seekers as Ellen and William Craft and Henry "Box" Brown.

Equal in importance to sites are the programs and facilities accepted into the Network to Freedom. Programs such as the Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour for educators in southern California and the living history-based "A Fugitive's Path—Escape on the Underground Railroad," in Bath, Ohio interpret Underground Railroad history to people of all ages and help to keep the memory alive. Similarly, facilities such as the River Road African American Museum and Gallery, located in Gonzales, Louisiana, help to tell the story of the origins of the Underground Railroad in the Deep South, where slavery was entrenched.

The Network to Freedom Program encourages eligible Underground Railroad sites, programs, and facilities to apply by either the July 15 or

January 15 deadlines.

For more information, contact the regional coordinators via the website at www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr.

A "Safer Haven" on Roanoke Island: Freedman's Colony Monument Dedicated

Doug Stover
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

On September 14, 2001, the Freedmen's Colony Celebration Committee and the National Park Service dedicated a monument to the Freedmen's Colony of Roanoke Island, 1862-1867. Following the next day on September 15, 2001, descendants of the colonists and others gathered to remember their historic struggles and achievements.

In 1862, the beginning of American Civil War, Union forces under the command of General Ambrose E. Burnside defeated Confederate troops and took control of Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Word spread throughout North Carolina that if slaves could cross the creek to Roanoke Island, they could find "safer haven." Hundreds of free and runaway slaves began arriving. By the end of 1862, over 1,000 freed men, women, and children found sanctuary on Roanoke Island. Able-bodied men were offered rations and



NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM



Over the course of two days, descendants of the Freedmen's Colony participated in events commemorating its founding. The monument is located at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, Roanoke Island, North Carolina. Photo courtesy of Doug Stover.

employment to build a new fort on the north end of the island.

By May 1863, work on the new fort was completed, yet more freedmen were arriving each day and the federal government ordered a formal colony be established and work provided for the freedman. The Freedmen's Colony was to become the model for other colonies. It encompassed much of the island, from the present center of Manteo, North Carolina to the northern shoreline, including most of what is today Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Homes, a sawmill, and a school, which employed seven black female

teachers, were established. In June 1863, the first state regiment of freedmen was formed. There troops became the First and Second North Carolina Colored Infantry.

After the fall of the Confederacy in April 1865, the Union government returned the property appropriated for the colony to the original owners, and the residents of the Freedmen's Colony were told to leave. Many of the freed people, after pleading their cases to the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, were allowed to remain on Roanoke Island. Other returned to the towns and cities

from which they came, and still others settled throughout the Albemarle area, some of whose descendants remain in the area today.

For more information on the Freedmen's Colony at Roanoke Island, NC, visit <http://www.nps.gov/fora/freedmancol.htm>

Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program for 2002-2003

For the year 2002-2003, the National Park Service Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program will pair students from colleges and universities around the United States with cultural resources projects. Projects range from the development of Section 106 consultation strategies for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, DC to archeological investigations at the Harriet Tubman Birth Site on Maryland's Eastern Shore. During 2002-2003, the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program will sponsor 13 summer internships and five semester internships.

The Diversity Internship Program is part of the National Park Service (NPS) Cultural Resources Diversity Initiative, which is a comprehensive effort to diversify the cultural resources field. Funding for the 2002-2003 projects is provided by the Challenge Cost Share Program of the National Park Service, the National Center for

Cultural Resources of the National Park Service, and the intern sponsors. For three internship projects located in Washington, DC, the Everett Public Service Internship Program contributes additional financial support and educational activities.

2002-2003 is the fourth year for the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program. The purpose of the program is to introduce diverse undergraduate and graduate students to the historic preservation/cultural resources field. The Diversity Internship Program exposes students to the many ways they can adapt their educational backgrounds and interest in history to the work of historians, curators, interpreters, and archeologists employed in historic site administration, historic property surveys and research, and interpretive programs. The program is oriented around professional projects that assist students with building their resumes of professional work in this field.

For more information on the internship program, contact Toni Lee at 202/343-9561 or email: toni_lee@nps.gov. Student applications for internships should be directed to: 1800 N. Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209 or visit the SCA website at www.sca-inc.org.

Patriots of Color: Native Americans and African Americans at Bunker Hill

Patricia Roeser
Boston National Historical Park

In October 1999, Boston National Historical Park, in collaboration with Minute Man National Historical Park, launched a

Cuff Chambers, an African American participant in the Battle of Bunker Hill, was buried in Dead River Cemetery, Leeds, Maine. The gravestone and accompanying marker indicate his service to the country in the Revolutionary War. Photo courtesy of Sarah Quintel.

research project designed to uncover the untold stories of African American and Native American combatants in the Battle of Bunker Hill and the conflict at Lexington and Concord. The parks hired Revolutionary War consultant George Quintal, Jr. to identify the patriots of color who participated in these first battles of the American Revolution.

After three years of extensive research, including the careful review of muster rolls and pensions, Quintal completed his research and his findings are available in a report entitled "Patriots of Color: African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road and Bunker Hill." The findings of this groundbreaking report concluded that 103 patriots of color fought in the battle, more than five times the earlier estimate. Quintal's research also uncovered information about individual combatants including dates of birth, death, and marriage; placement on the battlefield; participation in other military campaigns; and life histories. According to Marty Blatt, Chief of Cultural Resources at Boston National Historical Park, these new facts and figures provide an intimate look into the lives of the combatants and change our understanding of these battles, especially the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Written records for African American and Native American soldiers of the American Revolution are often haphazard or missing, which caused unique problems for Quintal as he set out to uncover the untold stories of these men. Quintal read nearly the entire 2,670 roll archive of 80,000 Revolutionary War pension applications. Other sources of information included church and town records and anecdotal reports.

In conducting his research, Quintal separated all the men into



three categories according to the type of documentation used to prove their involvement: primary, secondary, and “probable.” Quintal uncovered a total of 21 names of patriots of color who participated in the conflict along Battle Road. Thirteen of those names were proven by primary sources and three by secondary. Of the 103 names identified for the Battle of Bunker Hill, 12 were proven by primary sources and 22 by secondary sources. According to Quintal five percent of the soldiers engaged in the campaign at Bunker Hill were patriots of color. That makes Bunker Hill second only to Monmouth for the number of African American and Native American combatants. Blatt says that he is comfortable with the numbers and believes that with additional research, more soldiers could be identified.

Quintal’s report will be featured in a major new exhibit being developed by Boston National Historical Park, in cooperation with the Charlestown Historical Society. By uncovering the untold stories of these patriots of color, both Boston National Historical Park and Minute Man National Historical Park will be able to enhance the interpretation of African Americans and Native Americans.

Copies of the report are available from Boston National Historical Park. To request a copy contact Patricia Roeser at 617/242-5668 or email: patricia_roeser@nps.gov.

NHLs Benefit from Save America’s Treasures Grants

For the year 2001, federal *Save America’s Treasures* grants, administered by the National Park Service, awarded more than \$13 million to 55 projects in 27 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The grants are intended to assist with the restora-

tion and on-going preservation of historic places of national significance to America. Of that \$13 million, 60% was given to designated National Historic Landmarks; the remainder was given to properties listed at the National Register at the national level of significance. Among these are several historic places of significance to diverse communities.

Examples of culturally diverse Save America’s Treasures grantees include the Kaloko Fishpond, Kaloko-Honokahau National Historic Park, Hawaii; Madame Walker Theatre Center, Indianapolis, Indiana; the African Meeting House, Boston, Massachusetts; San Esteban Del Rey Mission, Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico; the Susan B. Anthony House, Rochester, New York; and the Robert Russa Moton High School Museum, Farmville, Virginia.

For more information on the Save America’s Treasures Grant program, contact Joe Wallis at 202/343-9564, email: joe_wallis@nps.gov.

Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits Help Revitalize the Jackson Ward Historic District

Angela Shearer
Technical Preservation Services

For the last 25 years, the Federal Historic Tax Incentives Program has been an invaluable tool for revitalizing communities and stimulating private investment while preserving historic buildings. Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices and the Internal Revenue Service, this program offers a 20% Federal tax credit for the cost of rehabilitating an income producing building. Properties may be commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental

residential, but owners’ private residences are not eligible.

To qualify for the program, the building must be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places or certified as contributing to a registered historic district and the project must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Rehabilitated historic properties under this program cover every period, size, style, and type of building reflecting the broad range of America’s cultural and ethnic diversity. One community that exemplifies the positive effect the tax credit program has had on community revitalization is the Jackson Ward Historic District in Richmond, Virginia.

The Jackson Ward Historic District is a residential neighborhood encompassing approximately 42 city blocks in the center of Richmond. Although the neighborhood developed in the early 1820s, the area’s greatest growth was from 1871-1905, when it was the center of African-American professional and entrepreneurial activities in the city as well as the state. The area gave rise to numerous African-American fraternal organizations, banks, insurance companies, and other commercial and social institutions. Many notable African-American figures lived and worked in Jackson Ward including Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, actor and dancer and Maggie L. Walker, the first woman in the United States to found and serve as president of a bank.

The historic neighborhood is characterized architecturally by the small-scale brick nineteenth-century Greek Revival and Italianate townhouses, two to three stories in height, with decorative porches. Commercial and social institutions that were prevalent in the community echoed the small scale and character of the residential community. Jackson Ward was listed in